expressed while declining to sign the Comprehensive Test Bano Treaty (CTBT) that it is unacceptable preventing the non-weapon countries from conducting nuclear tests while leaving it open to nuclear weapon States to conduct them; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto by way of securing support to their views and stand on CTBT from other countries and, securing a just and fair perspective in relation to nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the subcritical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT. India has been consistently pointing out in both bilateral and international fora that the CTBT in its present form contains loopholes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. India's stand on the CTBT enjoys support from non-aligned countries as well as international non-governmental organisations and the academic community. India believes that a nuclear weapon-free world will enhance our national security as well as global security.

Making Missiles with N-warheads by Pakistan

2491. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "Pak making N-warheads" which appeared in the Pioneer, dated the 9th July, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have since confirmed the reports that Pakistan is making missile with nuclear warhead with Chinese assistance, at its factory at Fateh Ganj; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of credible reports about Chinese assistance in Pakistan's missile programme. Government have made it clear that these developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's security environment.

Deployment of M-11 Missiles by Pakistan

2492. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have varified the reports that Pakistan has deployed Chinese built M-11 missiles near Indian border; and

(b) if so, the defensive measures taken by India to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all